

Fundamentals Relating to Faith
(Revelation 2:10)

Introduction:

1. According to this verse, God's people must be "*faithful unto death*" to receive "*a crown of life.*"
2. The book of Hebrews is especially designed to help Christians accomplish this goal -- it was written for the purpose of encouraging the Lord's people to remain faithful to Him.
 - a. This letter contains a number of admonitions that involve faith.
 - 1) (Hebrews 6:11-12) We must follow the example of those who received God's promises through faith and patience.
 - 2) (Hebrews 10:22) We are to "*draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.*"
 - 3) (Hebrews 10:23) We are to "*hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.*"
 - 4) (Hebrews 10:35-39) We are to "*live by faith.*"
 - b. The 11th chapter is a detailed study of faith -- it tells us about the faith demonstrated by a number of men and women in the Old Testament.
3. This morning we examined "5 lessons from Noah's faith" that are revealed in Hebrews 11:7.
4. This evening we are considering several fundamental principles relating to faith that are addressed in Hebrews 11.

Discussion:

- I. (Hebrews 11:1) FAITH IS DESCRIBED
 - A. In general, faith may be defined as "believing what God tells us in the Bible and following His instructions so we can receive His promises."
 - B. Faith is described in this verse as "*the 'substance' [assurance] of things hoped for, the 'evidence' [conviction] of things not seen.*"
 1. Our faith is to be based on God's Word (Romans 10:17).
 2. With our faith based on God's Word, we can understand:
 - a. things from the past we have not seen (Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 1)
 - b. things in the future we have not seen (Hebrews 11:13-16; John 14:2-3).
- II. (Hebrews 11:6) FAITH IS ESSENTIAL
 - A. Faith is essential in that we cannot please God without it.
 1. It is possible to possess various degrees of faith, including:
 - a. "*no faith*" (Mark 4:40)
 - b. "*little faith*" (Matthew 6:30)
 - c. "*dead*" faith (James 2:17)
 - d. "*great faith*" (Matthew 8:10; 15:28).
 2. Faith that pleases God includes:
 - a. believing that He is
 - b. believing that He will reward those who diligently seek Him
 - c. obeying His will (James 2:18-24).
 - B. Faith is also essential in that it will enable a person to obtain "*a good report*" (Hebrews 11:2).

Conclusion:

1. We can be encouraged as a result of reading and studying about great Bible characters such as those listed in Hebrews 11.
2. As we examine their faith, let us remember these fundamental principles.